

Training and Education Subgroup
Vote Indiana Team
March 21, 2003
Meeting Notes

Members Present: Jody Veldkamp (proxy for Christa Adkins), Tami Barreto, Mike Kiefer, Nick Rhoad, Brad King, Robert Vane (proxy for Doris Anne Sadler), Secretary of State Todd Rokita, Christine Dallberg (proxy for Suellen Jackson-Boner) , Patricia Wilson. Facilitator: Anita Kolkmeier

Others present: Sean White and Julia Vaughn (Count Us In)

Brad King pointed out on correction to the minutes from March 7, 2003. Strike Voter's Bill of Rights in the first paragraph under the goals in line 3. It should read "Under HAVA, the state is required to provide information to military and overseas voters about registration procedures and absentee voting."

Todd began the discussion with an update on the Voter's Bill of Rights. He is working on getting the Bill of Rights out to all precincts. He believes that it has good language to address both accountability and accessibility in the Indiana voting process. It will be in both English and Spanish.

He introduced that there will be no subgroup meetings next week so that the drafting process can begin.

Brad also commented that 72 out of 92 counties had already responded to his County Poll Worker Survey. The subgroup received a copy of all of the surveys at the end of the meeting and **everyone was tasked to review these for the next meeting and be prepared to comment.**

The group was tasked with prioritizing their 10 goals from the last meeting (minutes March 7, 2003). Tami Barreto began with her priority of increasing voter participation. Patricia Wilson handed out a survey of poll workers that she had prepared and taken from Marion, Bartholomew and Jackson county. Mike Kiefer said that his priority was recruitment of poll workers. Nick was very interested in training on the requirements for a voter registration identification number and a smooth transition.

Brad broke down the 10 goals from the last meeting. He said effective training was important. The more training then the less frustration on election day and the voters would want to come back. He also wants to focus on the training of others including the full service agencies (BMV). Brad also said that increasing voter participation to bring in young and new voters was important.

Christine, as a proxy for Suellen Jackson-Boner, said that Suellen felt like the group needed to look at what is already being done and see if it is being done properly. She used the BMV's duty to register voters as an example. That is their responsibility, but

she questioned whether it is being done properly and also whose has the responsibility to train the BMV. Suellen had suggested that we look at the 10 goals (from March 7 minutes) and classify them as low, medium or high priority.

Jody suggested that number 8, decreasing anxiety about the voting process was very important. This tied in with some of the other goals. If the voter and poll worker are both more aware, then the voter is more likely to vote.

Robert Vane suggested that most of the problems on Election Day are at the poll clerks table. Brad commented that some counties train more than just the inspectors. There is a bill that addresses training judges as well. Christine asked if there was another option for training than just the long hour training class. Patricia showed the group 2 charts from an Election Day handbook which the poll workers that she surveyed told her that they had never seen before.

Todd said that another problem in some counties is that Democrats and Republicans are trained in separate rooms. He suggested that we put into the plan that training is done together.

Mike Kiefer complimented the training that he had received in Marion County. Robert said that Marion County will be doing more regional training in smaller groups. Kiefer said if we fix the administration of the training, more will come to work. Marion County is also considering eliminating the sheriff's position to save the county money and free up workers on Election Day. The technological advances in the machines will hopefully make the counting procedure less of a hassle and bring in more workers.

Tami asked how the county got lists of individuals to work the polls and come to training. Robert said that they network off the lists of party workers. Robert also explained how they are getting the new machines out for citizens to see them. They are taking them to any event that someone has asked to see them and they will be taking them to county libraries in August and September. They will leave them in the libraries for 6 weeks and train the librarians to demonstrate how they work.

Brad explained the 2 programs under HAVA to recruit workers: (1) college students, and (2) high school students. The notion behind this is to recruit workers early so that they will stick with it. These individuals will work in non-partisan positions. This dovetails into current law which allows the 16 and 17 year olds to serve as poll worker except in the inspector and judge position.

The group needs to discuss/determine how to market these two programs under HAVA.

Robert pointed out that one problem with finding a poll worker is that people do not know that they can work for only a half day.

The one way that has provided little success for poll worker recruitment is the check box on the voter registration application. Individuals check the box but then do not really want to work when it comes time.

Todd made a presentation to the subgroup on the HAVA funding estimates and Indiana's share.

The group then refocused on the priorities of the goals. Tami said that she had problems because some goals we should always take care of and some are more important right now. Brad suggested that we break the 10 goals down into 3 groups and come up with 1 goal for each area.

1. (Includes goals 1, 2, 3, & 4 from the 3/7 minutes) To effectively train poll workers so they are aware of voter's rights, sensitive to voters need and proficient in their jobs with special emphasis on provisional ballots and voter identification numbers.
2. (Includes goals 5 & 6 goals from 3/7 minutes) On going training for employee of full voter registration agencies and county election administration such that each understands election procedures used in their county and polling place, and that each understands needs of voters with disability, voters who do not speak English, media, political party officials and campaign workers.
3. (Includes goals 7, 8, 9, 10 from the 3/7 minutes) Increase voter participation by providing information about voting process such as equipment, voter rights, accessibility and military and absentee voting.

The group then talked about methods of training. It was agreed that the state should develop methods of training and counties disseminate. The economy of scale is important. It is not necessary for every county to have its own special video. The state can develop one for numerous counties to use. The training materials should address DRE & optical scan machines and training on provisional ballots.

Must also consider issues for training for individuals with disabilities, i.e. closed captioned, large print.

Public Comment: Julia Vaughn indicated that the plan should set a benchmark and then measure how effective the poll worker training is. A study done in NY showed a shocking number of voters given the wrong answer by poll workers. There is also a shocking amount of confusion on voter assistance and this is not a new law. Julia reminded the subgroup that voting officials have a preference in terms of format for training. For example, after talking to Lake County officials, Julia learned that they do not like videos. Therefore, the plan should set forth multiple formats for training. The subgroup should also consider funding pilot programs that can be tested on small groups to see how they work.

Brad also commented that we need multiple training tools because of the various ways that people learn.